

**Global GODAN-CIARD Consultation on Open Agricultural Knowledge for Development  
22-24 April 2014, Rome, Italy**

**Session 17: Communication: how do we best facilitate information exchange amongst  
partners in the current absence of a Secretariat?**

Lead: Vassilis Protonotarios (Agro-Know)

Rapporteur: Barbara Hutchinson (University of Arizona, USA)

Social Media: Peter Mason (IDS)

Overview of PPT Slides Presented by Vassilis Protonotarios:

- Levels of communication - internal (among CIARD/GODAN partners); public (open to everyone)
- Types of communication - exchange ideas (text); exchange files (presentations, videos, large documents)
- Easy way (mailing lists) - generic one for everyone; focused ones for working groups/task forces; not appropriate for sharing large files
- The hard way: Forum...structures communication; allows for attachments
- Potential solutions - blog, wiki, forum, other?

Discussion Comments:

- 1) Ajit - infrastructure has already been set up for this; look at CIARD website; global consultation. Maybe what is lacking is a wiki, but is it really needed?
- 2) Hugo - he has created a wiki, not for GODAN-CIARD per se, but it could be adapted for other purposes.
- 3) Johannes - email is easiest way but no one likes it; can offer clone of CIARD infrastructure platform for GODAN communication.
- 4) Simon - US NAL can offer to host a wiki as well.
- 5) Question - should GODAN have a separate Forum?
- 6) Barbara - if there is to be an alliance, it would be most efficient to add GODAN to the already available CIARD communications mechanisms.
- 7) Johannes - who is to be the champion for this? There needs to be investment. AIMS and CIARD only took off when they received funding support. These can be cloned and used for GODAN.
- 8) Kerry - will look at these options more and see who might coordinate from the GODAN side .